

Forest Climate Action Team

State and Federal Public Lands Issues Subcommittee

August 10, 2015

Quarterly Update:

- Subcommittee Co-Chair met with the Inventory Subcommittee to outline a consistent approach to collect data to provide a baseline to support targets and proposed investments to be included in the Forest Carbon Plan. Forest Service and Cal FIRE FRAP are evaluating and comparing project data collection methods to report on the number of forested acres treated over the past 10 years (2005 – 2015) on state, federal and private lands. This reporting will be broken out by specific management actions and also costs of treatments will be included. The costs will be compiled from individual project reporting where feasible. In circumstances where this is not feasible, estimates may be made based on average cost of treatments per acre.
- An approach of how to integrate biomass use into the plan is in development. A proposed approach the subcommittee is considering is estimating the fate of woody biomass and harvest residue and the greenhouse gas emissions associated with these different fates. Management options will be addressed, such as mastication, prescribed burning and pile burning, as well as value-added wood products. In addition, the impacts of leaving biomass in the forests following fuels reduction and thinning projects, to the extent it negatively impacts GHG benefits, will be addressed.
- More land managers are coordinating large landscape projects across multiple public and private land ownerships in order to improve cost-effectiveness by targeting areas for treatment that provide the greatest benefit, as well as gain efficiency through coordinated project planning. This approach can benefit GHG as well by including multiple land management actions, both those that show short-term carbon benefits (i.e., reforestation), as well as actions that are needed to secure long-term carbon storage but release carbon in the near-term (i.e., prescribed burning).
- There is an interest among land managers and funders to coordinate investments from different sources of funding (GGRF, Prop 1, Federal funds) into the same watershed or fire shed. This funding approach supports large- landscape scale project planning and implementation.
- Two documents have been developed by the Subcommittee to date. The first identifies all land planning and management guidance used by the various land managers and evaluates to what extent carbon benefits is or could be included as a goal. This information will be used to write a synthesis of the current regulatory framework and existing policies that directly or indirectly influence forest management. It will also support highlighting known barriers or constraints for enhancing climate benefits from forests.
- The second is in draft form and outlines several partnerships and initiatives that are in the works that could be leveraged to help support and implement the planning targets and actions outlined in the Forest Carbon Plan